



Storyboarding for Video Production

A storyboard is a sketch of how to organize a story & a list of its contents. A storyboard helps you organize & focus, and define the parameters of it within available resources and time. You create outlines for papers, the same holds true for video or animation projects. With several people working on one project, you need a storyboard as a roadmap that you all agree to such that you each know what's expected throughout.

Types of Storyboards

Some people use simple Word/PowerPoint templates (see attached) with several blank panels to draw in the shot detail with an explanation of the action in that scene/shot.

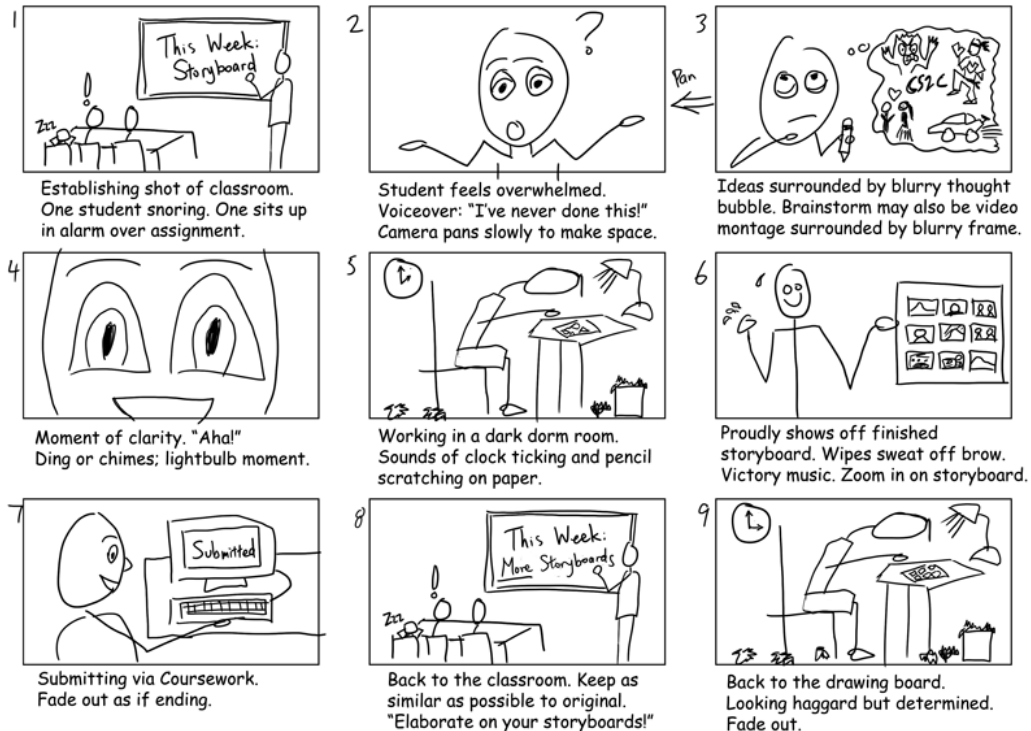
Others prefer a somewhat larger approach in that they'll use Easel Pad sized post-it notes, place these on a wall and sketch things out. Use smaller post-its to edit / make comments on the concepts.

Major film studios create very detailed and precise storyboards. An example from Pixar studios has been added to the end of the document.

Brainstorm with your group about the direction you want to take.

Here's an example from Stanford University:

"CS22C: Fun with Storyboards" by Kenneth Chan



Think about what will best represent your ideas. A voice-over while showing a diagram? Simple animation or sketches? Will you need a map or photos? Text?

One of the most effective uses of storyboards is to take photographs and/or video of your proposed scene prior to shooting any video or recording audio.

Gather all of your material together prior to starting post-production.

A few examples:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t3mAHQuBqQI>

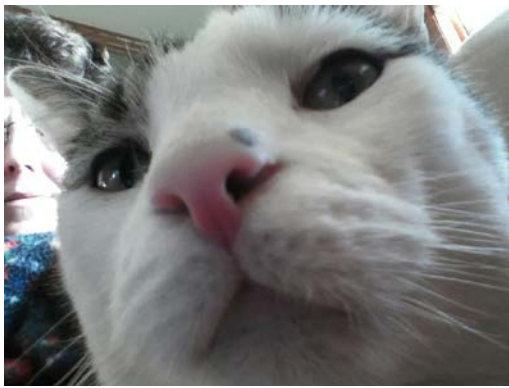
http://www.youtube.com/view_play_list?p=4142987CFF2C5D49

Shooting Video

Every time you are ready to record, record for at least 5 seconds prior to action and 5 seconds after action. This will help you greatly in post-production editing especially because you don't want to cut off the start or end of someone talking.

After you have your basic ideas down – then start to consider how you'll shoot the subject. Will you need closeups? Medium shots, long shots?

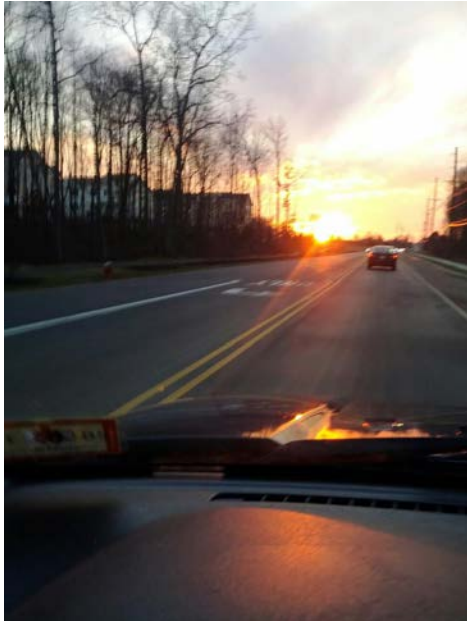
Close ups of people typically fill the screen & can be used to convey emotion. A closeup of an icicle with a drop of water ready to fall off of it as a detailed view/idea about global warming.



A medium shot (or mid shot) usually shows some part of the subject – say from the waist up. If you plan on having someone talking to the camera while holding an object related to your subject, this works best.



A wide shot is often used to show the subject in a certain area that establishes location. A long or wide shot of the road suggests movement, travel of course, a destination to be reached.



B-Roll

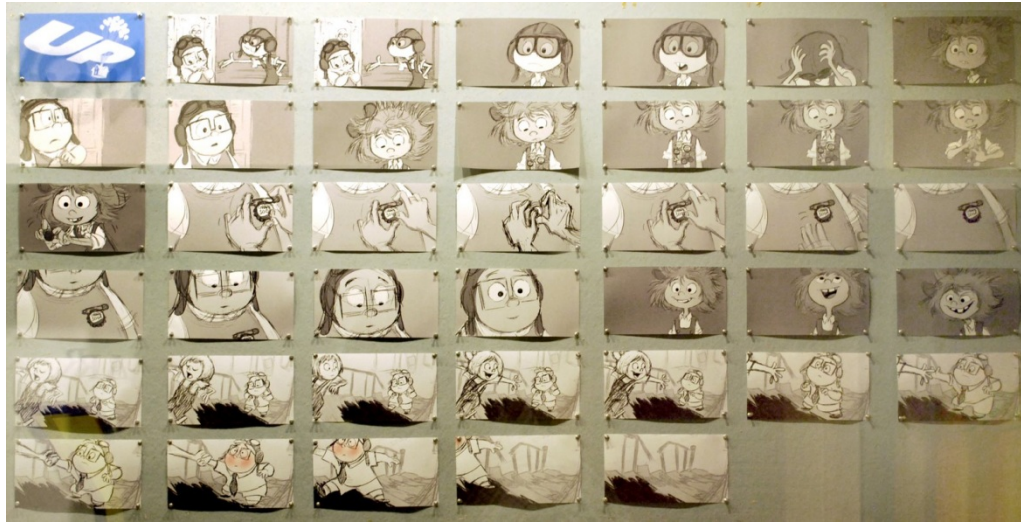
You will most likely also require what is called “B-roll” in the video/film industry. It’s video/photo filler for voice overs that accompany the idea. For example, if you were to interview a local person about the Dinky, you’d want shots of the train: pulling in, leaving the station, being boarded, and shots of the surrounding area. Always record more than you think you’ll need.

Shoot from different angles and perspectives.

You’ve seen a lot of B-roll in your life if you’ve watched news programs. Consider a reporter doing a voice over talking about a shooting and they have video of the hospital where the victim was taken or of the area it occurred.

Youtube & Vimeo

You can find good material already produced on line. Consider searching for B-roll material in Youtube or Vimeo. You should contact the person providing it to ask for permission and offer to give credit in your video.



This is a very detailed storyboard from Pixar studios' film "Up".